

Roger and the Second Crusade
221

character, and" unfitted to play
Urban H/B part
in the First Crusade, But Europe was
reached,
at many points, by similar embassies
from the
Bast, and responded nobly to the
appeal. Es-
pecially did France, the home of
generous ideas,
answer to the cry for help of the
Syrian Pranks,
and St. Bernard took from the hands of
the Pope
the preaching of the Second Crusade,
Eugenius,
at war with the Roman commune,
appointed him
to promote the cause in Germany and
France,
and emerged from his cloister
with all
the and untiring skill which he
had formerly
to the party of Aacletus. At
Vezelay,
near Nevers, in Easter, 1046, Louis
VII. and all
tits met to on the great -
question,
iitted in the open air,
seated by
the King's side. To the vigour and
eloquence
•of his for a Crusade, the
generous minds
of the French nobles no
filled
with the Turka, they
tore
their into Louis himself,
foremost
of all, took the oath of a Crusader.
The French King was now twenty-five
years old,
but a and gloomy mind
made him
than his his monkish piety was

m of jest to his high-spirited
wife, of Aquitaine, Louis was
already at
to a and to fulfil the vow
by his Philip to go to the Holy
Land, ft vow by premature
death,
Moreover, a weighed down the
con-